

If you have additional questions/concerns,
do not hesitate to call the Division of Developmental Disabilities at 1-866-229-5553.

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM AHCCCS

Member Communication regarding

Role of Individual Representatives and Paid Caregivers within the

Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS)

In order to comply with a new federal rule (42 CFR 441.505), AHCCCS and its Health Plans are proposing a new policy, effective January 1, 2013, related to the role of individual representatives and paid caregivers for all members enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS), including members choosing the Community First Choice option. The federal rule establishes conflict of interest safeguards and prohibits an individual representative from also serving as a paid caregiver for the member. An individual representative means a parent, family member, guardian, advocate, or other person authorized by the individual to represent the member in connection with the provision of services and supports.

To address concerns raised by the community, AHCCCS is proposing that individuals who currently serve as both an individual representative and a paid caregiver must appoint another person, who is not a paid caregiver, to approve services or service hours during the service planning process.

Under this proposal, individual representatives, including family members who are not legally responsible relatives, can serve as paid caregivers. However, someone who is currently the member's individual representative and wishes to serve as a paid caregiver must appoint another person who is not a paid caregiver to approve services or service hours on behalf of the member. Paid caregivers can still attend service planning meetings and provide input, but they cannot approve services or service hours. Case managers will assist members and their representatives to understand this process. AHCCCS is proposing that this policy go into effect on January 1, 2013.

Also, please be aware that the term "individual representative" does not have the same meaning as the term "authorized representative." An authorized representative helps ALTCS members with eligibility related processes and decisions, not service planning.

Additional information will be provided in the near future. AHCCCS will also hold an Informational Session on October 29, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Disability Empowerment Center, which is located at 5025 East Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034. For more information, please visit the AHCCCS website at:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/SDAC.aspx?ID=memberresources>.